

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 1, 1941

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1942 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, August 1, 1941. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
Mr. Bruce,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
Mr. Poor,
also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary

and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held July 1, 1941, were approved.
2. PROGRAM OF PROCEDURE IN MATTER OF SUBMISSIONS FROM THE SECTION OF FINE ARTS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Bruce said:

"I am anxious that the operations of the Section of Fine Arts meet with your approval. I am uncertain what to do with our artists. For years we have been carrying on the work of getting artists commissions. We hold competitions, have conferences with them, but when it comes to submitting designs and models to this Commission we have had difficulties--we don't know where we stand. It would be helpful if Mr. Poor and Mr. Manship would draft a statement of policy with respect to the relationship of the Section of Fine Arts to this Commission, in the matter of submitting designs and models for paintings and sculpture."

Both Mr. Poor and Mr. Manship thought it would be a good thing to have such a statement to clarify the method of procedure, as suggested by Mr. Bruce, particularly a policy with respect to submission of sketches selected from competitions, inspection of models from small scale to full size, preliminary and final approval.



The Commission expressed the desire to cooperate with the Section of Fine Arts in this matter with the idea of having work in connection with submissions proceed as smoothly as possible. Mr. Poor and Mr. Manship were thereupon appointed as a Committee to prepare a statement as above suggested.

3. PORTRAIT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BY GILBERT STUART: The Chairman presented the following letter received from Mr. H. G. Crim, Chief Usher of the White House:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

July 16, 1941.

My dear Major Clarke:

Our inability to learn the identity of the donor of the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington has developed an impasse.

I recently was informed of certain developments incident to the presentation of this portrait which justified me in having the entire matter investigated. This investigation by the United States Secret Service uncovers the fact that there is at this time no donor, but rather it seems that Mr. Hekimian is using a photostat copy of my letter to you dated June 25, 1941, which you gave him, in a sales promotion scheme, and that he is hopeful in the near future of being able to convince some outstanding American that he should purchase this portrait from Mrs. Tilney through him, at a sum considerably in excess of the amount Mrs. Tilney is asking; the purchaser then to present same to the United States.

In view of these circumstances I feel constrained to recommend that the offer to accept this art treasure be vacated. I am hopeful that you will see fit to present my recommendation to the full Commission of Fine Arts, and that I may hear from you at an early date as to your decision in the matter.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) H. G. Crim,
Chief Usher.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Hekimian had written to the President and his offer had been accepted in good faith, in fact with enthusiasm, but it now develops that Hekimian wants to commercialize this thing and it seems he is trying to make several thousand dollars out of it for himself.

The secretary reported that the Secret Service had requested him to do certain research on the question of previous ownership of the painting, and that he found the information desired at the Library of Congress.

Upon the recommendation of the Chairman, the Commission adopted a Resolution vacating their acceptance of the painting, as follows:

Resolved, That in view of evidence presented by the Chief Usher of the White House, by letter of July 16, 1941, that Mr. Hekimian has no bona fide donor of the portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, and that he is interested in a "sales promotion scheme", the Commission of Fine Arts hereby vacates their acceptance of the offer.

A report was sent to Mr. Crim accordingly. (Exhibit A)

The Commission stated that while the transaction with Mr. Hekimian would be considered as closed, they would not refuse the portrait a place in the White House if a bona fide donor wanted to present the portrait at some time in the future.

4. NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: The secretary presented prints of preliminary drawings, prepared in the Construction Division, War Department, pursuant to H. R. 5412, approved on July 28, 1941, for a huge War Department building to be built on the Arlington Experimental Farm site, covering 67 acres, and to house all the offices of the War Department.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Caemmerer had notified him of this project several days ago and that yesterday he was in Washington and learned that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had just sent a letter of protest to the Senate Appropriations Committee, recommending a building "half as large". The Chairman said he thereupon prepared a Memorandum for the Press, which, with the approval of the Commission, he would release for publication at once. The Chairman pointed out that the area has for 20 years been designated as an addition to Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Clarke read the Memorandum and it

was heartily approved by the Commission. Copies thereof were sent to the newspapers. (Exhibit B)

Mr. Holabird pointed out that while both the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts are opposed to the erection of this huge building, some constructive solution should be offered by way of suggesting another location, since it appears Congress wants a single building for the War Department.

The Chairman said that the question of location is one coming particularly under the jurisdiction of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and since this Commission is to have a joint session with them in a few minutes, the subject could be presented there.

5. JOINT SESSION WITH THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION:

The proceedings of the joint session will appear in the Minutes of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, copies of which will be furnished this Commission in due time. The following is a summary of projects considered:

(a) Location of the Army Medical Library and Museum Building: The Commissions gave particular attention to the question of setbacks of the building from the curbs at East Capitol Street, Third and Fourth Streets. It was agreed that the building should be located with reference to the recently adopted Downer-Clarke Plan, under which, however, Fourth Street is to be kept open for the present. It was stated that the building as drawn would come within 6 feet from the sidewalk at Third and Fourth Streets; this both Commissions thought would be deplorable. The plans were examined and it was concluded by the Architect members of the Commission of Fine Arts that the building has so much loose space in it that it could be redrawn without difficulty, without reducing the cubage and at the same time be given a good landscape setting. Both Commissions thereupon decided upon the following measurements:

From East Capitol Street: 15' sidewalk, 25' planting, 20' "moat"----60'
From 3rd and 4th Streets: 15' sidewalk, 20' planting, 20' "moat"----55'

These measurements were modified at the afternoon session of the Commission of Fine Arts in conference with the architects and representatives of the Surgeon General's office, and the following compromise was agreed to: the use of the term "terrace" in place of "moat".

East Capitol Street front: sidewalk 15', planting 39', terrace 6'----60'
Third and Fourth Streets: sidewalk 15', planting 26', terrace 6' ----47'

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission was informed of the above change and agreed to it. Thus both Commissions adopted these measurements as standards, in a general way, for future guidance in the location of monumental buildings on East Capitol Street.

Mr. W. T. Partridge, Consulting Architect of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, called attention to certain departures in the L'Enfant Plan brought about by the new East Capitol Street Plan, particularly the omission of the radial avenues at Lincoln Park. It was noted that some of these radial avenues were unimportant and it was thought that whether or not they should be preserved is a matter that might be left for later consideration.

(b) Subway for Union Station: Sketches were presented for the construction of a subway for Union Station, suggesting ramps at E Street, or at Delaware and Louisiana Avenues, under the Plaza, with the idea of making use of the basement of the Union Station for taxicab facilities. Both Commissions were satisfied with the progress as indicated by the studies. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission adopted a Resolution concurring in the recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts that no marquee be built in front of the main arch of Union Station.

(c) NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Chairman Clarke reported that the Commission of Fine Arts had sent a Memorandum to the Press, protesting against the erection of the new War Department Building on the Arlington Farms site, of which he presented a copy. Both Commissions felt this to be a very serious matter. Suggestions were made as to other available sites, such as the area west of the War Department Building at 22nd Street and Virginia Avenue; at the end of East Capitol Street, or back of Fort Myer, in Arlington County. Chairman Delano called attention to the protest made by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to the Senate Appropriations Committee, and agreed that it would be better not to build on the Arlington Farms site if it can be avoided. (Exhibit C) It was pointed out that 400 buses a day would be needed to take care of the 40,000 persons to house the building, 88 per cent of which live in the District of Columbia; also 35 acres of roof would be seen from the Arlington Mansion and the Lincoln Memorial.

(d) Relocation of the Statue of Andrew Jackson: Mr. Nolen presented a letter suggesting the relocation of the Equestrian Statue of Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Park to Washington Circle and placing the Equestrian Statue of George Washington at the site of the Jackson Statue, since at each of the four corners of Lafayette Park is a statue commemorating a General of the Revolutionary War.

Chairman Clarke stated that the question of relocating the Andrew Jackson Statue has been before the Commission of Fine Arts several times; most recently in 1933, when the Commission disapproved a similar suggestion by President Roosevelt. A full report on the subject appears in the Twelfth Report of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission decided to refer the letter to the Commission of Fine Arts for reply.

6. CHINA SERVICE MEDAL: Under date of July 18, 1941, the following letter was received from Rear Admiral C. W. Nimitz, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation:

Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication dated July 2, 1941, advising this Bureau that the Fine Arts Commission had considered all of the designs submitted for the new China Service Medal and recommended acceptance of Design No. 16. This design portrays a sailor, under arms, with a dragon in the background.

This medal, when issued, will be in recognition of service performed by enlisted men of the U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps and commissioned officers both of the U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps. A design which specifically recognizes only one group does not reflect the intent of the award. Design No. 16 is not acceptable for this reason.

In view of the difficulty which has been experienced in selecting a suitable design from among those submitted in response to the original request for a design for the China Service Medal, this Bureau will recommend to the Secretary of the Navy rejection of all of the original designs and will request the Navy Department to invite new bids.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) C. W. Nimitz,
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.

The Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts.

The Chairman stated that yesterday, after consultation with Mr. Manship he talked with Commander Taylor on the subject and informed him of a suggestion made by Mr. Manship that the Navy Department consider the artist of design No. 16 the winner of the competition and that he be instructed with reference to elements desired in a new design; and this would save several months' delay and give assurance of a satisfactory result, since design No. 16 indicated that the artist is a person of ability. The Commission agreed to this suggestion, and Admiral Nimitz was informed accordingly.
(Exhibit D)

7. STATUARY FOR THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Mr. F. F. Gillen, Acting Superintendent of National Capital Parks, reported that Mr. Leo Friedlander had signed the contract to complete his groups of statuary at the entrance to the Arlington Memorial Bridge, near the Lincoln Memorial. The Commission were pleased to hear this, since thereby completion of the groups, including those by Mr. Fraser who had signed his contract several weeks ago, is assured.

8. CARTHAGE (MISSOURI) MARBLE: The Chairman presented the following letter received from Hon. Dewey Short, House of Representatives:

July 30, 1941.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

It has come to my attention that the Carthage Marble Corporation of Carthage, Missouri, are endeavoring to have their exterior marble included in the specifications for the new Army Medical Museum Building to be constructed on East Capitol Street, in Washington.

Carthage Marble is sometimes known as light gray but with sand rubbed finish it is always referred to as white. I am advised that Eggers and Higgins, Architects for this proposed building, are favorable to Carthage marble in connection with the specifications for this building.

Most of the domestic marble districts are well represented in the Nation's Capital,--with the exception of Missouri. Carthage Marble is well known for its beauty and durability, and we Missourians are particularly anxious to see it used here in Washington.

I shall appreciate it greatly if you and the other Members of your Commission will make it possible for the Carthage Marble Corporation to submit a bid to furnish the marble for the Army Medical Museum Building.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Dewey Short,
Member of Congress.

Mr. Holabird stated that Carthage marble is a good gray stone, used often for interiors. Dr. Cret said the contrast between Carthage stone and white marble would be like limestone and white marble, and would mean a change in policy of the Commission if white marble buildings for East Capitol Street are not to be adhered to.

Congressman Short was informed that the Commission would give this matter careful consideration whenever samples of marbles for the building are submitted, but that at present the design is still being studied. (Exhibit E)

9. ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM BUILDING: The Commission were in conference with Colonel Harold W. Jones, Librarian of the Army Medical Library and Museum and with Colonel Walter M. Crandall, representing Surgeon General James C. Magee of the Army, and with Mr. Young and Mr. Olsen, representing Eggers & Higgins, architects of the building.

Chairman Clarke explained the conclusions reached at the joint session with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission with reference to setbacks for buildings on East Capitol Street and the distances agreed upon as being necessary to give the building a good landscape setting, namely 60 feet back from the sidewalk on East Capitol Street and 20 feet back from the sidewalk on Third and Fourth Streets. It was noted from the plans that the architects proposed only a six-foot side yard. The Commission thought this to be deplorable.

Colonel Jones said he would not favor turning the building around so as to face either Third or Fourth Streets since additional land south of A Street would be required for the building.

Mr. Young said the architects did not like the situation but that General Magee refuses to have a smaller building. The architect members of the Commission thereupon examined the plans in detail. They discovered exterior walls 14 feet high surrounding the building above the third story with nothing behind them and concluded that there is so much free and unused space in the building that it could well be redesigned and given the desired cubage and leave space at the same time for an appropriate landscape setting. Chairman Clarke stated that this building and the Folger Library set a standard for the East Capitol Street

development, and that it is highly important to give this library building a proper landscape setting. After discussion, Dr. Cret offered the following measurements, by way of compromise, which were agreed to:

East Capitol Street front: sidewalk 15', planting 39', terrace 6'---60'
Third and Fourth Streets: sidewalk 15', planting 26', terrace 6'---47'

A "moat" was thought to be unnecessary and it is to be replaced by the 6' terrace. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission, while in session, were informed of these changes in measurements and agreed to them.

Colonel Jones and Colonel Crandall, as well as the representatives of the architects, agreed to these measurements subject to the approval of Surgeon General Magee. However, the architects thought the scheme could be worked out satisfactorily and agreed to making a revised design. A report was sent to General Magee. (Exhibit F) (See also F-1)

10. MARINE CORPS MEDAL: Under date of July 10th the following letter was received from the Acting Commandant of the Marine Corps:

Gentlemen:

In pursuance of Executive Order 3524 of July 28, 1921, there is forwarded for your approval a plaque of the Marine Corps Reserve service medal, the obverse of which has recently been revised to read 'Marine Corps Reserve for Service' instead of "Fleet Marine Corps Reserve for Service", and in this connection attention is invited to your letter of February 17, 1938, approving the former medal. Please note that the same central design has been retained.

(Signed) A. A. Vandergrift,
Major General Commandant, Acting.

The model was brought to the attention of Mr. Manship, and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. (Exhibit G)

11. TABLET FOR THE ARLINGTON AMPHITHEATER: Under date of July 11, 1941, the following letter was received, with sample of stone:

Gentlemen:

In compliance with the suggestion of Col. C. C. Reynolds of the Quartermaster Corps of the War Department there is submitted herewith a design for a tablet commemorating the designation of May 30 each year as Memorial Day authorized under Public Resolution No. 38, approved June 19, 1926, together with a sample of marble which we hope your Commission will approve.

Thanking you and with every good and kind wish, I am,

Very sincerely,
(Mrs.) Margaret Hopkins Worrell,
National Legislative Chairman,
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic

The Commission approved the sample of white Vermont marble. The Commission disapproved the design for the tablet, stating that the lines are too broken up, and that it should be redesigned by a competent architect. Also the Commission recommended an incised letter, and requested information as to the specific location for the tablet. A report was sent to Mrs. Worrell. (Exhibit H)

12. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS; The secretary presented the following sets of plans received from the Office of the Building Inspector of the District of Columbia:

- (a) Application No. 929 for penthouse on apartment at 532--20th Street, N. W. Mr. Lamb had examined the design and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it.
- (b) Application No. 930, for residence at 1717 Juniper Street; approved.
- (c) Application No. 932, for residence at 3101 Aberfoyle Place, N. W. approved.
- (d) Preliminary design for flats for colored people at about Canal and T Streets, S. W., east of the War College, submitted by Mr. L. W. Syme, architect. The plans were inspected by the architect members of the Commission, who suggested a few changes in matters of detail, and considered the design to be satisfactory subject to the submission of working drawings.

13. RELOCATION OF THE MCILLAN FOUNTAIN: The Commission were in conference with Colonel W. J. Barden, District Engineer of the United States Engineer Office

and with Mr. E. A. Schmitt, Chief Engineer of that office, concerning the question of relocation of the McMillan Fountain. Colonel Barden stated that bids for the new Reservoir are running so high that they will not have more than \$5,000 to relocate the fountain, whereas, confirming a report he sent to the office of National Capital Parks on July 14th, "it would be necessary either to drive concrete piles about 50 feet in length to bed rock or to provide a very substantial reinforced concrete spread footing---" to re-erect the fountain in West Potomac Park, south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin, and at a cost approximating \$17,500.00. Therefore, Colonel Barden recommended a site, in a sketch he submitted, about 200 feet north of the present location of the fountain, which would place it near First and Douglas Streets, N. W.

The Commission, after examination of the sketch, felt that the fountain would be inappropriately located there and urged that additional funds be secured to make it possible to relocate the fountain south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin. The Chairman called attention to the important work Senator McMillan did in reviving the Plan of Washington through the work of the McMillan Park Commission, to the fact that the fountain, which was given to the Government, is a work of art by a notable sculptor and architect of this country, and that the extra funds needed would be a justifiable expenditure. A report was sent to Colonel Barden accordingly. (Exhibit I)

14. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL PLANTING PLAN: Mr. Donald L. Kline, landscape architect, submitted in behalf of the National Park Service drawings for roadways, sidewalks and curbs to surround the Thomas Jefferson Memorial outside of the grounds immediately adjacent to the Memorial. On the suggestion of the Chairman, the Commission recommended the use of bituminous concrete for roads throughout, granite curbs, and scrubbed aggregate for the sidewalks. The lamp standards

surrounding the Memorial should be similar to those in the Mall. The curbs on the two temporary straight roads may be of concrete. The sidewalks along those roads should be of bituminous aggregate so as to make them less obtrusive. A report was sent to the National Park Service accordingly. (Exhibit J)

15. BRIDGES FOR BOUNDARY CHANNEL: Mr. Kline reported that the temporary bridges across Boundary Channel are becoming weak and that new bridges must soon be built. He presented a scheme for monumental stone bridges heretofore approved. The architect members and Mr. Clarke felt that a simple steel girder bridge with stone piers is more in keeping with present day bridge building and would be preferable to a heavy masonry bridge. Mr. Kline was requested to make his studies on that basis.

16. FREER GALLERY OF ART: Mr. Clarke and Mr. Manship examined the following work of art proposed for purchase by the Freer Gallery, and approved it:

1 Pottery plate, gold lustre.

Egyptian, 11th century.

The Commission concurred in the request that this piece be acquired for the Freer Gallery.

The Commission adjourned at 5:00 p. m.

C O P Y

August 1, 1941.

My dear Mr. Crim:

Referring again to your letter of July 16th, I have to inform you that at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held today, the Commission adopted a Resolution vacating their acceptance of the offer of Mr. Nejib Hekimian to procure a portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart for the White House, because there is no bona fide donor.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. H. C. Crim, Chief Usher,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

August 1, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS:

The Commission of Fine Arts have not been advised officially concerning the tentative plans of the War Department to erect an office building on a part of the former Department of Agriculture Experimental Farm in Virginia, but sufficient information concerning this project has been obtained to justify a statement concerning the proposal.

When the Department of Agriculture vacated the government lands along the Potomac in Virginia and moved to Beltsville, Maryland, the Commission of Fine Arts expressed the opinion that this area should be permanently dedicated for use as a part of the Arlington National Cemetery. The general policy of keeping this land open and free of permanent buildings dates back to the Senate Park Commission Plan of 1901, when that Commission wrote in its final report that:

"Nothing could be more impressive than the rank after rank of white stones, inconspicuous in themselves, covering the gentle, wooded slopes, and producing the desired effect of a vast army in its last resting place. * * * In particular, the noble slopes toward the river should be rigorously protected against the invasion of monuments which utterly annihilate the sense of beauty and repose. This is one of the most beautiful spots in the vicinity of Washington; it should not be defaced or touched in any way, and a law or rule should at once be passed forbidding the placing of any monument on this hill."

In 1919 the Commission of Fine Arts prepared a summary opinion with respect to the manner in which the Arlington National Cemetery should be developed, "a situation which has received a large amount of serious consideration, during which the Commission had the cooperation of Major General Harry L. Rogers, Quartermaster General of the United States Army", to whom certain recommendations were submitted. Among these recommendations were statements which are worthy of repetition at this time:

EXHIBIT B

"Arlington is an historic place. Its builder, George Washington Parke Custis, was the adopted son of George Washington. * * * At his death Arlington passed into the possession of his daughter, the wife of Robert E. Lee, and was occupied by Gen. and Mrs. Lee until it came into possession of the Government. Its historical importance should be considered in methods of treatment.

Arlington prospectively is a portion of the great central composition of Washington, extending from the Capitol through the Mall to the Monument and on to the Lincoln Memorial, whence the Memorial Bridge already authorized by Congress will cross the Potomac to the newly created park area adjoining the Arlington estate. This linking of Arlington to the park system of Washington imposes on the plan for the development of Arlington certain restrictions in the location of grave areas, so as to preserve a sufficient number of parklike drives through the cemetery.* * *

It is time now to see about recovering those portions of the Arlington estate which have been given up to the Agricultural Experimental Station. The recognition of the need and possibility of extending Arlington Cemetery will tend to prevent the crowding of graves within the present area, a tendency which is already marked. * * *

The World War has not only brought a sudden large accession to the present population of Arlington, but it has also given to more than a million men the right to demand and receive a burial site in this National Cemetery. The present appropriation for all the 83 national cemeteries is \$250,000 a year. Arlington alone will need more than that entire sum annually. * * * *

As a result of several years' study a plan for the development of the Arlington National Cemetery was prepared in 1921. This plan had the approval of the Quartermaster General and the Commission of Fine Arts and on this plan the Arlington Farms area was clearly designated for future cemetery extension. This plan is reproduced on page 118 in the Ninth Report of the Commission of Fine Arts, 1921.

The Commission of Fine Arts therefore do not look with favor upon the proposition to erect buildings of any description upon lands which for years past have been designated as open area to be unencumbered save with the graves of the honored dead of the Army and the Navy of the United States. Such a use brings these lands into the category of a great park and it is that use which seems to the Commission of Fine Arts to be the most appropriate as a foreground or a background for the Central Composition of the great Capital City of Washington.

We have visualized what 35 acres of roof would look like as the foreground to the view of the Capital City from in front of the Arlington Mansion, a vantage point from which thousands of visitors yearly see the City. The view in the opposite direction, from the Lincoln Memorial toward Arlington, would also be across these same 35 acres of roof, when looking toward the Arlington Mansion.

We have attempted to point out a few aesthetic reasons why it seems to this Commission to be exceedingly unfortunate for the good of this great Capital to proceed with plans for huge office buildings in the midst of an area which in our judgment should always be kept open, undespoiled, and sacred for the use for which it has been dedicated.

There are many other good reasons why this area seems unsuited as the site for a city of 40,000 people, but they are practical reasons which have been clearly stated by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and therefore do not require repetition here.

The members of this Commission are in complete accord with the efforts of the War Department to provide adequate space for its offices and we do not wish in any way to retard the progress in the direction of the completion of our program for defense, but we do emphasize the fact that serious mistakes should if possible be avoided even in times of emergency and we believe that we owe it to future generations of Americans not to destroy the beauty of the greatest Capital City in the world by hurried, ill-considered schemes for the physical expansion of governmental departments. We are sure that there are other and better solutions to this particular problem which, incidentally, might result in decentralizing the offices of the Army to prevent that remote possibility of wiping out the whole establishment incident to the dropping of two or three bombs.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Interior Building,
Washington, D. C.

Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

July 31, 1941.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of law creating the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Commission held a special meeting on July 29 to consider the proposal for the location and construction of an office building for the War Department on the former Arlington Experimental Farm, adjacent to the approach connecting the Memorial Bridge and the Arlington Cemetery, to house a maximum of 40,000 employees, at a cost of \$35,000,000, as provided in H. R. 6412 now being considered by your Committee. As a result of this meeting, the Commission has directed that the following report be submitted for your information in considering this proposed appropriation for the War Department.

The Commission recognizes that we are faced with a national emergency involving the defense of the Nation, and that things which ordinarily would not have to be done will have to be done. No other emergency except war would justify such permanent injury to the dignity and character of the area encompassing the Lincoln Memorial, the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the Arlington National Cemetery. The Commission has, therefore, confined its examination of this proposal to the single

question of the practicability of the project as a whole, in its relation to the highway, traffic and transportation problems, the probable residences of employees, and water supply and sewerage facilities.

Attending the meeting of the Commission were General B. B. Somervell, Quartermaster General; Mr. Thomas H. MacDonald, Commissioner, Public Roads Administration; Capt. H. C. Whitehurst, Director of Highways, D. C.; Mr. William A. Van Duzer, Director of Vehicles and Traffic, D. C.; and other representatives of these Federal and District agencies. In addition there were representatives from Arlington County. Attending also, as members of the Commission, were the Chief of Engineers of the War Department and the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia. Prior to this meeting, the Commission had held a series of conferences with representatives of the above agencies and the transportation companies of the District and Virginia to consider the various problems which this proposal raised and the plans necessary for their solution.

Data obtained from the recent District Highway Planning Survey show that at present more than 88% of the officers and civilian employees of the War Department are housed in the District of Columbia or in adjacent Maryland, and 12% in Virginia. Thus, as most of the workers now live in Washington and, we believe, will still be living there when the War Department Building is finished, it is estimated that for many years to come, at least 80% will have to be transported through Washington streets and across the Potomac twice a day because it takes a long time to change the habits of large numbers of people, and for private enterprise, in turn, to provide new accommodations in response to changing economic

demands. The heavy part of this load will be over the Memorial and 14th Street Bridges and connecting streets, even though it is hoped to improve facilities via the Key Bridge and the Chian Bridge so as to encourage, so far as possible, transport by those routes.

These facts and others were reviewed by the Commission at its special meeting after receiving from General Somervell a full and complete explanation of the project. Recommendations were then made by Mr. MacDonald of the Public Roads Administration as to the highways and related facilities considered essential to move the 40,000 people to and from the new building twice daily, and by Capt. Whitehurst as to improvements essential to increase the capacity of approaches to the bridges on the District side of the river. These recommendations together with estimates as to the capacity of the bridges and their approaches made by Mr. Van Duzer, led the Commission to reach the following principal findings and conclusions:

1. It will be necessary to stagger working hours over a 2-hour period, morning and evening, with 40,000 people in the War Department Building and the 5000 people in Federal Office Building No. 2 in the same general area. This conclusion is concurred in by both the transportation companies and by the Director of Vehicles and Traffic of the District Government, because of limitations on the capacity of the Potomac River bridges and approaches, and on the ability to load and unload the required 600 bus-loads of employees twice daily.
2. There is available at the present time on the Memorial and Highway Bridges an additional capacity during the morning

2-hour rush period for only 4500 vehicles southbound, and during the evening 2-hour rush period, for only 2900 vehicles northbound, both insufficient to carry the additional traffic that would be generated by the War Department Building. However, with the improvements recommended under items 3 and 4 below, removing all present conflicts on approaches such as on Columbia Island, there will be a maximum additional capacity available up to 11,000 vehicles southbound in the two morning rush hours and 9,800 vehicles northbound in the two evening rush hours. This will be sufficient to handle the increased traffic due to the War Department Building, but the ensuing accelerated growth of Arlington and Fairfax Counties and Alexandria will undoubtedly advance the time when a new crossing or crossings of the Potomac River will be required.

3. The placement of a building of this size on the Arlington Farm makes it absolutely imperative that the system of access roads, grade separations, etc. for improving the Virginia approaches to Highway, Memorial, Key and Chain Bridges, as proposed by the Public Roads Administration, be constructed and in operation by the time the building is completed. While some of these roads were planned for future construction in any event, their immediate construction will be essential to handle the larger traffic volume. Preliminary estimates indicate that these facilities will cost between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000. The Commission has been informally advised by the War Department that it is prepared

to certify the allocation of Defense Highway funds for the construction of access roads up to about \$7,000,000, and if more complete estimates do not indicate a larger amount, it will not be necessary to ask for additional funds.

4. To improve the District of Columbia approaches, it will be necessary to advance priorities and provide immediate financing for the construction of a number of projects, some of which might otherwise be postponed for several years. These projects include advancing the date for completion of the 14th and Maine Ave. grade separation, the extension of Independence Ave. to the Lincoln Memorial, changes in roadways in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial, the widening of 23d Street north of the Lincoln Memorial, the construction of the K Street viaduct from the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway to Key Bridge, and other lesser projects.
5. In the matter of water supply, it will be necessary to extend a large water main from Georgetown to the building site and to provide additional filter capacity at Dalecarlia at an estimated cost of \$235,000, which cost, the Commission is advised, can be paid out of the \$35,000,000 appropriation. The District Engineer, however, recommends that legislation be secured to authorize the Washington Aqueduct system to furnish water, transmission, and storage facilities, and maintenance thereof, to all Federal activities in Arlington County. Unless this were done, the costs chargeable to the War Department Building would be approximately double those indicated above.

6. It will be necessary to construct on the old Hoover Airport, adjacent to the Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, a sewage disposal plant providing complete treatment, the cost of which is also included in the \$35,000,000 estimate.

Factual data in support of the above conclusions, derived from the recent District Highway Planning Survey, including the estimates made by the Director of Vehicles and Traffic, and by the Commission, are attached hereto.

In other respects, it should be borne in mind that the carrying out of so large a project in the next two years will have a very serious retarding effect on the National Capital, for the following reasons:

- (a) It contemplates suddenly giving up the lease by the Federal Government of say three million feet of now rented floor space with consequent serious economic disturbance.
- (b) It contemplates transporting say 24,000 to 35,000 employees morning and evening through the streets of Washington, because it will be some time before any appreciable number can be housed south of the river.
- (c) It will throw a heavy burden on Arlington and Fairfax Counties which they may be unable readily to finance.
- (d) It will inevitably postpone at least some of the long and carefully considered projects for the State Department, the Navy Department, and a number of minor departmental projects.
- (e) Last, but not least, a question presents itself, to wit:

Is it wise to put the entire general and official staff of the Army in one place where many of them might be subject to being put out of action?

For the above reasons, we are strongly of the opinion that while the War Department is justified in planning an office building for a maximum of 40,000 employees, it would be unwise to build more than for say 20,000 employees, until some experience shall have been acquired in concentrating this number in an outlying suburban location.

Yours very truly,

Frederic A. Delano,
Chairman.

FAD:JN:hl

PROPOSED WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Factual Data Derived from Recent D. C.
Highway Plan Survey, and estimates by Direc-
tor of Vehicles and Traffic and the National
Capital Park and Planning Commission.

July 29, 1941

(1) Residence of War Department Employees. - Fall 1939

District of Columbia, Northwest Area	65.8*
Northeast - West of Anacostia River	7.9
Northeast - East of Anacostia River	2.3
Southeast - East of Anacostia River	1.5
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TOTAL	74.7%
METROPOLITAN MARYLAND TOTAL	11.7%
METROPOLITAN VIRGINIA TOTAL	12.8%
All others	1.1%
	100.0%

*Allocated approximately as follows: Downtown Washington - 16%; West of Rock Creek - 17%; Rock Creek to North Capital Street, 30%.

Note - The above percentages vary only slightly for the total government employ and for the combined War, Navy and Interior group.

(2) Commuting Habits. - Fall 1939

War Department employees commuting by private car	35%
" " " " by street car and bus	47%
" " " " by walking	18%

Of those walking about 27% live in the vicinity of
Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.

Employees driving their own car -- District of Columbia	58%
" " " " " -- Maryland	20%
" " " " " -- Virginia	21%
Average number of persons per car	1.7

Estimated Volume of Traffic Required to Serve the Proposed Building.

The War Department now has 24,000 employees. Federal Office Building No. 2 is expected to accommodate 5,000 and will use the same highway facilities for access.

Total War Department employees - with estimated 6,000 increase over the period required for construction of buildings - 30,000 employees.

Maximum ultimate employees estimated by War Department, 40,000 employees.

Navy Building No. 2, estimate maximum ultimate employees, 5,000 "

Private Cars	30,000 persons <u>Minimum employees</u>	45,000 persons <u>Maximum employees</u>
1/3 of employees using private car	10,000 persons	15,000 persons
@ 2 employees per car	5,000 cars	7,500 cars*
2/3 of employees using buses	20,000 persons	30,000 persons
@ 50 persons per bus	400 bus loadings	600 bus loadings

* of which 1,400 are at Navy Building #2.

Maximum capacity of traffic lanes into and out of parking area, 400/lane/hour.
Predicated on right hand turns only in and out of area.

Number of lanes required to move traffic in and out of parking areas. War Department only, in one hour.	<u>Minimum employees</u>	<u>Maximum employees</u>
	5,000 cars - 12.5 lanes	6,100 cars - 15 lanes

Number of lanes in existing highways surrounding site:

Ridge Road	1 lane each way
Arlington Cemetery approach	<u>3 lanes each way</u>
Total existing facilities	4 lanes each way

Bus Loadings

	<u>Minimum employees.</u>	<u>Maximum employees.</u>
Over two-hour period	400 bus loadings	600 bus loadings
Over 15 minute period	50 " "	75 " "
Over 1 minute period	3 1/3 bus "	5 " "

To load 75 buses in a 15-minute stagger period would require approximately 2,500 feet of loading platform.

1 bus = 3 cars in space occupied - giving the equivalent of 1,800 additional cars for 600 buses.

(4) Highway Capacity.

In the case of the proposed building, the limitation of highways to and from the District is controlled largely by the approaches to the Potomac River Bridges.

Capacity of light controlled or interrupted traffic lane	450-600 cars per lane per hour
Capacity of uninterrupted traffic lane, including bridges	1,000-1,500 cars/lane/hour

Capacity of bridges and approaches. -- 2 hour period. April-May 1941

A. M.		Volume	Volume	Additional capacity	Additional capacity	
		South	North	available existing	available with proposed	
		Bound	Bound	conditions	improvements @ 1500/lane/h	
7-8	Highway Bridge	1120	1845	400	1,880	Southbound
8-9	" "	1022	1517	500	1,978	"
7-8	Memorial Bridge	765	3198	1800	3,737	"
8-9	" "	795	2663	1800	3,707	"
A.M. Maximum total additional capacity				4,500	11,302	"
Car and bus capacity needed to serve buildings (2 hour period)				7,900	7,900	"
Estimated capacity deficiency or surplus				-3,400	+ 3,402	"
P.M.						
4-5	Highway Bridge	1646	1558	---	1,442	Northbound
5-6	" "	1829	1162	400	1,838	"
4-5	Memorial Bridge	2906	1473	1,000	3,027	"
5-6	" "	2244	1002	1,500	3,498	"
P.M. Maximum total additional capacity				2,900	9,805	"
Car and bus capacity needed to serve proposed buildings (2 hour period)				7,900	7,900	"
Estimated capacity deficiency or surplus				-5,000	+1,905	"

C O P Y

August 1, 1941.

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

I received your letter of July 18th, concerning the China Service Medal, and brought it to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today.

Instead of holding another competition the sculptor member of this Commission, Mr. Paulanship, strongly recommends that the artist of design No. 16 be declared the winner of the competition held some months ago, since his design indicates that he is an artist of ability and capable of submitting a good model. If this is done, the artist should then be instructed with regard to elements he should embody in a new design.

The Commission concur in this suggestion of the sculptor member. It will save several months' time necessary to conduct another competition, the outcome of which might be unsatisfactory. The Commission will be pleased to cooperate with you in this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Rear Admiral C. W. Nimitz, U. S. N., Chief,
Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

August 2, 1941.

My dear Congressman Short:

With reference to your letter of July 30th, recommending the use of Carthage Marble for the Army Medical Library and Museum Building, I have to inform you that the architects, Eggers and Higgins, have not as yet submitted a sample of the marble to this Commission.

The Commission will give this matter careful consideration whenever samples of marbles for the building are submitted. At present, study is still being given to the design of the building.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Dewey Short,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

August 2, 1941.

Dear General Magee:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on August 1st, had the pleasure to confer with your representatives, Col. Jones and Col. Crandall, and with representatives of the architects, Eggers and Higgins, concerning the design for the new Army Medical Library and Museum Building.

The Commission emphasized the fact that this structure will take its place as an important monumental building in the National Capital and therefore should have an appropriate landscape setting in the square selected for it on the south side of East Capitol Street, between Third and Fourth Streets.

Under a plan recently adopted by both the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, East Capitol Street will be lined with marble buildings, of which your Library and the Folger Library will set the standard.

After a careful review of the plans submitted by the architects, they have been requested to make a new study which will keep the building walls back from the proposed curb lines of Third and Fourth Streets a distance of 47 feet and from the proposed curb line of East Capitol Street a distance of 60 feet. These set-backs also have the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with whom we met in joint session to consider this matter. The architect members of the Commission are convinced that these set-backs will enormously help the appearance of the building by providing a more generous space around the structure for appropriate planting. Your representatives and the architects felt the building could be designed satisfactorily to fit within the area prescribed without causing any serious difficulties.

We shall be pleased to meet with the architects again when they have completed their revised study in order to give particular attention to the design of the building.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Major General James C. Magee, U. S. A.,
The Surgeon General, War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
WASHINGTON

jcm-emc

August 5, 1941

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUG 6 1941

NOTED

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Your letter of August 2, confirming verbal information I had had from Colonel Jones on the results of the recent conference in your office concerning the proposed Army Medical Library and Museum building, pleased me exceedingly. I hope that we may now go on to the selection of a plan that will prove satisfactory to all interested agencies.

The desirability of providing generous areas around the structure is not open to argument, and I am happy to think that this end may be achieved without such sacrifice of functional space as to defeat the purpose for which it is intended.

Most sincerely yours,


James C. Magee
Major General, U. S. Army
The Surgeon General

EXHIBIT F-1

C O P Y

August 1, 1941.

Sir:

The revised model for the obverse of the Marine Corps Reserve Service Medal, which you submitted with your letter of July 10th, was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paul Manship, sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts, at a meeting held today, and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. The model is herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Major General A. A. Vandegrift,
Acting Commandant,
United States Marine Corps,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

August 2, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Worrell:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on August 1st, considered the design and sample of marble you submitted for a tablet to commemorate the designation of May 30 each year as Memorial Day, to be erected in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater.

The Commission approved the sample of marble. However, the Commission disapproved the design for the tablet. The Commission felt that the lines of the inscription were not well arranged, and that it should take the form of complete lines rather than so many broken ones. There might be a simple border at the edge of the tablet, and it is understood that an incised letter will be used.

The Commission recommend that this work be placed in the hands of a competent architect. When a revised design is submitted, the Commission would also like to see a photograph showing where it is proposed to place the tablet in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mrs. Margaret Hopkins Worrell,
National Legislative Chairman,
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,
Apt. 515 East Clifton Terrace,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

August 2, 1941.

Dear Col. Barden:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on August 1st, were pleased to consider with you and Mr. Schmitt of your office, the question of relocation of the McMillan Fountain.

The Commission disapproved placing the fountain at the location shown in the sketch you submitted, since the fountain would there be in a subordinate position that would not do justice to the memory of Senator McMillan, to whom the Nation is indebted for having revived the Plan of Washington through the work of the McMillan Park Commission of 1901.

The Commission feel that the fountain as a work of art and as a memorial to Senator McMillan is deserving of a place in the Central Composition of the National Capital, and the Commission would like to see the fountain placed in West Potomac Park on the south side of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin at the location heretofore selected. The Commission recommend that your office endeavor to obtain the necessary additional funds needed to place the fountain in that location. The Commission will be pleased to cooperate with you in this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Col. W. J. Barden,
District Engineer,
United States Engineer Office,
Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

August 1, 1941.

Dear Mr. Demaray:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, considered plans for the treatment of the grounds surrounding the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, submitted in behalf of your office by Mr. Donald L. Kline, landscape architect.

The Commission recommend the use of bituminous concrete for roads throughout, granite curbs, and scrubbed aggregate for the sidewalks encircling the Memorial. The lamp standards surrounding the Memorial should be similar to those in the Mall.

The curbs on the two temporary straight roads may be of concrete. The sidewalks along those roads should be of a bituminous aggregate so as to make them less obtrusive.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

The Commission of Fine Arts joined the meeting at this point, the following members being present:

MAJOR GILMORE D. CLARKE, Chairman.
MR. WILLIAM F. LAMB.
MR. PAUL MANSHIP.
MR. EDWARD BRUCE.
MR. PAUL CRET.
MR. JOHN HOLABIRD.
MR. HENRY VARNUM POOR.
MR. H. P. CAETTERER, Secretary.

34. East Capitol Street Plan: (See also Par. 43):

MAJOR CLARKE stated that he had had considerable discussion with MR. JAY DOWNER, Consultant for the Public Roads Administration, as to the proposed East Capitol Street plan, which included suggested revisions in certain underpasses, circles, width of streets, etc. He felt there was no value in discussing these at great length at this time. Both the Commission of Fine Arts and the Park and Planning Commission are studying these in detail.

No action.

35. Army Medical Museum and Library: (See also Pars. 53 and 55:)

MR. NOLEN explained that after a number of conferences between the Commission and the War Department, it had been agreed that the Army Medical Museum and Library should be placed on Square 787 just east of the Folger Library, and that whatever was done on this Square would affect to a considerable extent the remainder of the East Capitol Street plan, especially as to the setback from the center line of East Capitol Street and the width of 3rd and 4th Streets. MR. NOLEN explained that Congress had a few years ago authorized an appropriation of \$3,750,000 for the construction of the building, and actually appropriated \$170,000 for drawing plans. No money was authorized, however, for the purchase of land. The bill has now passed the House and is on the Senate Calendar authorizing an additional \$1,000,000 so as to include the acquisition of land.

MR. EGGERS, of the firm of EGGERS and HIGGINS, submitted proposed plans for the erection of the building on Square 787.

Discussion included proposed setback lines, height of the building, effect of the construction of this building on the entire East Capitol Street development.

MOTION unanimously carried that the Commission give its approval to the modified plan providing a setback of 25 feet from the back of the sidewalk to the face of the moat wall on East Capitol Street, and a setback of 20 feet from the back of the proposed sidewalk of 3rd and 4th Streets, after widening, to the face of the moat wall, the moat in each case to extend 20 feet beyond the main building wall. These dimensions to be placed on a drawing for guidance of the architects.

36. Addition to Church of the Reformation:

MR. NOLEN stated that the Church of the Reformation is located on Square 759, bounded by East Capitol Street, 2nd, 3rd and A Streets; that the congregation has grown in recent years from 300 to 1500 members; that they now desire to add an addition to the Church to be used as a Sunday School building, and this addition will be about as large as the present church building. They have stated that they want to cooperate with this Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, and would like to have their advice and ultimate approval so as to coordinate with the Commission's East Capitol Street plan.

Discussion included the fact that the Church can proceed to erect their building regardless of the approval of ^{either of} these agencies; that the Government could later on, in its East Capitol Street development, acquire the property by purchase or condemnation; that it may be the policy of the Government to leave such public service buildings as churches or schools wherever they could be fitted into the general plan of the East Capitol Street development.

MOTION unanimously carried that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission raise no objection to the extension of this plan of the church building in this Square, provided they observe building lines proposed for East Capitol Street and 2nd and 3rd Streets, and provided further that plans are submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for their approval.

37. Union Station Traffic Problem:

On this subject, MAJOR CLARKE stated - "The Superintendent of the Union Station came to us and wanted to erect a marquee in front of the Union Station, made of structural steel which would cut off the columns, and we felt as the entrance to the National Capitol, it would be a very unfortunate thing to do. We told them, while we disapproved that scheme, we realized that something was needed and should be done, and we would be glad to cooperate with them in any way we could. They have space downstairs that could be excavated for a subway. I asked them to see the planning people. We wouldn't want to see the facade of that station defaced by putting up a marquee 80 feet wide. We felt it would only be a temporary solution anyway. They would have to do something else, and why not do the right thing at this moment. It was not within our province to get into the matter of traffic, so we have been out of it since then."

CHAIRMAN DELANO stated that one thing that is obviously very unsatisfactory at the Union Station, is a very long walk from the trains to the taxicabs.

MR. WEHRLY stated that he had been making a careful study of this problem in connection with MR. VAN DUZER. He exhibited certain plans showing studies to relieve in part at least the traffic problem. Study A shows the possibility of locating a taxicab tunnel with entrance from D Street in the line of Delaware Avenue. MR. VAN DUZER reached the conclusion that E Street was a preferable approach. There was also consideration of using North Capitol Street or Massachusetts Avenue as the tunnel approach.

Discussion included the proposed development of East Capitol Street, and the extent to which it would change the present traffic problem at the Union Station plaza; the desirability of entering Washington where one would have a good view of the Capitol; the feeling that the station should have been set back from the convergence of streets entering the plaza in order to provide an approach for purely local traffic; the necessity of preserving the dignity of the Union Station, and the fact that no satisfactory solution had been arrived at up to the present time, and the necessity for further study.

MOTION unanimously carried that the Commission joins with the Commission of Fine Arts in expressing the belief that the meeting of this traffic situation at the Union Station plaza should not be accomplished by the construction of a street level marquee, but should be worked out by some underground type of arrangement such as : tunnel ramps or similar means to be developed by later study.

MAJOR CLARKE stated that his Commission is entirely agreeable to that action.

38. Removal of Jackson Statue in Lafayette Park:

MR. NOLEN reported receipt of a letter from F. KEY SMITH, of this city, urging that the statue of Jackson in Lafayette Park be removed and placed in Washington Circle at 25rd Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, and that the circle be named Jackson Circle; also that the statue of Washington, now located in Washington Circle be removed from that location and placed in Lafayette Park, so that it may be surrounded with the statues of Washington's Generals, and for the further reason that there is neither a street nor avenue in Washington named in honor of Washington, that 16th Street be designated Washington Boulevard.

MR. NOLEN called attention to the fact that one of the Mall Drives is now named Washington Drive.

MOTION unanimously carried that this matter be referred to the Commission of Fine Arts for report, and that MR. SMITH be advised of this reference.

39. Revisions in L'Enfant Plan:

MR. PARTRIDGE read to the Commission the following memorandum prepared by him, calling attention to the departures from the L'Enfant Plan which are now being undertaken here in the nature of major projects, especially the extension of Independence and Constitution Avenues east of the Capitol:

"August 1, 1941.

"MEMORANDUM TO MR. DELANO:

SUBJECT: Memorandum re Downer-Clarke Plan
for meeting of August 1, 1941.

I should be failing in my duty to this Commission as well as to my profession if I did not call attention to the serious effect the execution of the proposed Downer-Clarke project for the East Capitol Street development will have upon the plan of L'Enfant for this area.

The extension eastward of Constitution and Independence Aves. and the use of the land between them for public building sites, will obliterate one of the main distinctive features of the original layout. There were three principal foci from which that system of paired radial avenues spread - that system which makes the plan of Washington unique and original.

These radials spread from the site of the Capitol, the White House and from a point on East Capitol Street one mile east of the Capitol, where L'Enfant proposed the erection of 'an historic column - also intended for a mile or itinerary Column from whose station all distances of places throughout the Continent are to be calculated'.

The shape of the plaza in which this column was to stand was altered in the engraved plan of Ellicott and later in the Dermott plan, which later was followed in the Lincoln Park of today.

While an itinerary column is not an important feature today, the value of this location as a site for a future memorial should not be overlooked.

We must decide whether the practical advantages, requiring in their execution the destruction of this important planning feature, outweigh the aesthetic and sentimental values.

That changes in modern conditions demand alterations to the original plan cannot be denied. Indeed President Washington himself made several. He states however, in a letter to Thornton dated June 1, 1799, 'that nothing ought to justify a departure from the engraved plan but the probability of some great public benefit, or unavoidable necessity.'

Are the proposed changes justified by these standards?

(Sgd) William T. Partridge,
Consulting Architect."

MR. PARTRIDGE foresees great criticism in the future from the adherents to the L'Enfant Plan. He pointed out, however, that the changes are not only of great public benefit, but an unavoidable necessity, the only justifications, as PRESIDENT WASHINGTON stated, for any departure from the engraved plan.

40. War Department Building:

MAJOR CLARKE stated that he had just given a memorandum to the Press strongly opposing erection of a War Department building of any size on Arlington Farm near the junction of the extension of the Arlington Memorial Bridge and Arlington Ridge Road. A copy of this Press release is attached as APPENDIX C. On August 2, 1941, MAJOR CLARKE addressed a letter to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate again vigorously opposing the erection of the War Department building on the above-mentioned site. Copy of this letter is attached as APPENDIX D. On August 11, 1941, MAJOR CLARKE addressed a letter to each member of the United States Senate again opposing the erection of the War Department building on the above-mentioned site, and asking that they give consideration to the location of the building in (a) the Northwest Rectangle, or (b) the large area now owned by the Army north of Columbia Pike. This letter is attached as APPENDIX E.

MAJOR CLARKE stated further that his Commission felt some concrete proposal should be made perhaps by this Commission or their Commission, which would be agreed to as a desirable alternate. The national defense and existing emergency might be an opportune time for starting the East Capitol Street development.

MAJOR CLARKE stated further - "I am convinced that this is not the only open area in which the Army can function. It is about as bad a plan as can be made, and I question very seriously whether any great Department like that should be so centralized. The plan was very hurriedly conceived. From our point of view, it is not in accord with the plans for the treatment of the whole city as the Nation's Capital."

The Chairman pointed out that this Commission developed a public building plan for the Northwest Area approximately 10 years ago for the housing of the Army and Navy Departments, with adequate space for both Departments. The building as now proposed is only three stories high, of reinforced concrete, fire-proof construction, which would stand for a considerable length of time.

Discussion included the fact that no open areas are available for houses for employees of the new War Department building; that about one and a half million men of the World War are entitled to be buried in the Arlington Cemetery, which will mean great expansion of that area; that the plan is a violation of the plan laid down when the Arlington Memorial Bridge was constructed; that provision for the expansion of the War and Navy Departments was provided in the Northwest Area; the question of whether it is expedient for the War Department to have its headquarters and bureaus in the center of the city; that the Government already has title to sufficient land within the District of Columbia to proceed with parts of the War Department building; that doubling the height of the building would materially reduce its size and thus permit its location in the Northwest Rectangle; feeling of some members that it is not economical construction to build a 3-story building; that the Northwest Area plan would provide not more than about 4,000,000 square feet of floor space on account of limited street capacity; suggestion of erecting a 6-story, reinforced concrete building on Squares 33 and 44 in the Northwest Area, where the United States now owns sufficient ground to begin construction; that approximately 160,000 square feet could be provided on the south half of Square 104; constructing reinforced concrete buildings on East Capitol Street and observing the future building lines for that street, and at some future time such buildings could be covered with a veneer of limestone; use of the Soldiers' Home grounds, which is Government owned property.

The Commission of Fine Arts withdrew at this point.

The Chairman stated that he and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget had visited the President, and had pointed out that it was a great pity to construct this building. From articles in the newspapers, it appears that the President had approved the erection of the building on the Arlington Farm.